from time to time by the pharmaceutical industry on various issues, including the lifting of price control on drugs and pharmaceuticals. The Drug Price Control Review Committee was constituted by Government in the light of such representations. Its report was received in October, 1999.

Clean Environment and Chemical Industry

140. SHRI E. BALANANDAN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that keeping of the environment clean in the Chemical industry will help reduce operational cost and bring down energy consumption in that industry; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Selective procurement of raw material, installation of sophisticated equipment and improvement in processes can result in cleaning up the environment. While the initial investment may be high, in the long run it may result in reduced recurring costs. The Government is laying down rigorous standards and the industry is using its ingenuity to achieve synergy between clean environment and cost reduction.

Production of Fertilizers by HFC

141. SHRI DRUPAD BORGOHAIN: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) what plan has been taken up by the Ministry to save industries under the HFC;

(b) the details of production of fertilizers in the HFC units; and

(c) what new development is going on to save the Namrup

unit, by bifurcating it from HFC and by floating a new company after decision of revamping and its reference to BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (c) The rehabilitation scheme of Hindustan Fertilizer Corporation Ltd. (HFC) was considered by the Government, which approved the revamp of Namrup units at an estimated fresh investment of Rs. 350 crores. The Namrup Revamp Project is under implementation. A provision of plan funds of Rs. 60.19 crore has been made during 1999-2000 for HFC including Rs. 54.83 crore for its Namrup Revamp Project. The rehabilitation proposals of the remaining units of HFC including the Namrup units, based on their unit-wise viability are to be submitted to the competent authority in the Government for consideration and thereafter, for final sanction of BIFR.

(b) Namrup III, the only functional urea producing unit of HFC, has produced 0.38 lakh MT of Nitrogen during 1999-2000 (upto January, 2000).

Requirement of Chemical Fertilizers in India

†142. SHRI ONKAR SINGH LAKHAWAT: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the total annual requirement of chemical fertilizers in India and the total quantity being produced by the public and private sector; and

(b) the total quantity of chemical fertilizers imported during 1998-99 and by when India would be self-reliant in the field of chemical fertilizers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The total annual requirement of chemical fertilizers, in terms of nutrients, in India during 1998-99 & 1999-2000 and sector-wise production during the same period is given below:

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.